The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL 8. NO. 24. WASHINGTON D. C. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 7. 1918. WHOLE NO. 388.

Senator Talks One Way, Votes Another.

Washington, Sept. 7.—In favoring the Thomas conscription-of-labor amendment to the draft law, Senator McCumber, of North Dakota, showed how a man can ride two horses going in opposite directions. He said:

"Mr. President, the bad system that we have adopted has been most responsible for what slacking we have in all our productive industries today. This accursed proposition of 'cost plus' is at the bottom of all the evil in the industrial world from which we are suffering today. The amendment of the senator from Colorado (Mr. Thomas), while it is along right lines, as I said at the time, would not reach the real evil against which it is aimed. It is not so much a question of strikes as it is the slacking that has been encouraged by every form of labor, whose salary is prolonged by reason of the delay in the work, and every contractor whose profits will be enlarged just to the extent that delays and slacking will be encouraged."

After making this startling confession, which has been ignored by that portion of the public press that "plays up" any condemnation of strikers, Mr. McCumber asked:

"Are senators afraid to vote their own convictions because they fear they will offend labor?"

RAILROAD EMPLOYES CAN'T ENTER POLITICS

Washington, Sept. 7.—Director General of Railroads McAdoo has ordered railroad men to keep out of politics.

The order applies to all employees connected with the United States railroad administration, from the track walker to high officials in the general management.

It is evident that the director general intends to break the political machines that railroad managers have erected in various states, for he says:

"It was a matter of common report that railroads under private control were frequently used for partisan political purposes, that general operations were frequently adjuncts of political machines and that sovereign states had been at times dominated by them. Scandals resulted from such practices, the public interest was prejudiced and hostility to railroad managements was engendered."

As a direct policy of the railroad administration Mr. McAdoo announced that no railroad officer, attorney or employe can do any of the following things:

Solicit funds for political purposes, be a delegate to any political party or political convention, assume the conduct of a political campaign or attempt to coerce or intimidate another officer or employe in his vote. Violation of the latter rule will result in immediate dismissal.

No one connected with a government controlled railroad can become a candidate for political office, and those who desire to run for office or engage in politics must sever their connections with the railroad service.

Membership on a local political outpark board is not to be construed as a political office.

LOST TRAVELING TIME PAID BY EMPLOYERS

Washington, Sept. 7.—The national war labor board has ruled that employes of the Southern Bleaching company, Coffeeville, Kant. shall be paid for the time spent in traveling to and from their work in the mill fields, with overtime rates where they either work or travel in excess of eight hours, together with board and lodging.

"This is the first time the board has had occasion to rule that where a basic eight-hour day is established, as is machinery for the speedy adjustment of grievances, that time spent in traveling to and from the mill fields, including drinking fountains, toilets, lockers and bathing facilities. Where the practice prevails all employes have given preference in employment, seniority rights are secured and membership in a union shall no longer be a cause for dismissal or a bar to employment.

Joint Chairman Frank P. Walsh makes this comment on the award:

"The principles underlying control over the part of the government to stabilize labor conditions in the war industries, to adjust the relations of the workers and employers up to this time have been characterized by innumerable difficulties and lingering antagonisms. In some parts of the industries field feeling has run so high that klu klux clans were organized, thereby parties formed, all-grid I. W. W.'s and others tarred and feathered, charges and counter charges of abduction and other deliberate practices made by both the workers and the employers. The mid-continent field of operations is one of all this. Attention content oil in the country and the total production is staggering in volume and value. The production of oil lies at the very base of the military and naval programs of the government, and the perpetuation of unrest in the mid-continent oil fields could have a detrimental effect upon oil production."

ARMY'S HEALTH IS GOOD.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The United States army is in good health, judging by the annual death rate from diseases among our soldiers at home and abroad, according to figures issued by the war department. For the past two thousand to slightly more than three per cent.

During the Mexican war the rate was 100 per thousand. During the Civil war the rate was as high as 69 per thousand, and in the Spanish-American war it was 25 out of every thousand.

It is stated that effective preventive measures have been employed to prevent the spread of measles and a successful method of combatting pneumonia has been discovered. At Fort Riley, Kansas, there were 85 cases of empyema under treatment between October 28 to January 27, and of these 82 died. From January 29 to April 30 there were 69 cases treated by the new and successful method and only six died. The most successful method to prevent the army had to combat last winter has now been overcome, and the danger of another such epidemic has been averted.

STREET CAR MEN WIN

Ottawa, Canada, Sept. 7.—Street car men have won their fight for an award an arbitration award under the Canadian "cart-strike" law, and wages have been increased over those granted by the arbitration board.

This award, which is now considered by the new appeal board, consisting of representatives of the government, the employes and the public, which will review the findings of arbitration boards, if either party is dissatisfied.

Objection has been made to the "cart-strike" law because of delays that employers have taken advantage of. When the street car men asked that the appeal board be called in case, they were notified by the government that such action would be taken within 10 days. This sounded like the old story and the men suspended work. The workers were then notified that the board would consider the matter "immediately." The men returned to work and the question was settled in record time.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 7.—In his report to the general executive board of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes, President Mahon showed that during the past year 29 new locals were chartered, 29,34 new members enrolled, 65 contracts renewed, 24 new contracts secured, 37 increases in wage increases, 9,25 members were strolled in military service, 1,00.7 have returned, 848, $6,700 disability benefits paid and $1,600 old-age benefits paid.

FOOD SHORTAGE "A BLUFF."

Portland, Me., Sept. 7.—The federal food administration for Maine points out that it is unwise to put too much faith in the food crisis cry in Austria, and Germany, as the enemy countries are not liable to permit the publication of news which would give the allied world a true idea of the food situation in that land. Germany has spread stories to lure the allies into believing that she is on the verge of famine, and declared that this propaganda was responsible for pacifists' talk in certain sections of the country.

As too much faith in food-riot dispatches might be construed to discourage production here, the food administration urges that the people of America be not permitted these tales to lull them into inactivity.

TO PROBE LIVING COSTS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor has begun the collection of data preliminary to the investigation of the cost of living. The findings will be used as a basis in making wage adjustments.

The inquiry will include yearly expenditures of families for various items of food, and for clothing, household, furniture and miscellaneous expenses. Records of the budgets of different parts of each locality visited will be asked to aid in this investigation. Women will be assured that all information will be treated as confidential.

"GALLERY" TALK.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Senator Sherman of Illinois has been featured in the public press for some time as this week he declared that "on all questions, directly or indirectly related to labor, Gompers is practically president of the United States."

Two years ago Senator Sherman referred to President Gompers as "a public leader."

On February 25, of this year, Senator Sherman said: "After all, most of us are talking to the galleries, anyhow."

STATE UNIONS MEET.

Fort Scott, Kan., Sept. 7.—At the annual convention of the state federation of labor, 78 delegates from 38 cities reported that trade unionism is making continuous gains throughout the state. The next convention will be held at Coffeyville.

WORKERS TO BE TESTED FOR PHYSICAL FITNESS

Washington, Sept. 7.—Because of a scarcity of physicians the war labor policies board has recommended that a physical examination of workers, recruited by the United States employment service, be first tested in a few industrial centers "with a view to extending as the experiments made and the development of the employment service warrant."

The recommendation for physical examination of these workers is the result of conference in New York, July 15 last, under the auspices of the sub-committee on welfare work, committee on the council of national defense, when it was resolved:

"That physical examination of workers is primarily a measure of health conservation and is essential to maximum production—a war necessity.

"That the purpose of a medical examination is not to eliminate the worker from industrial service, but to adapt him to the work he is physically fitted for.

In recommending that the examination be made by one of the functions of the United States employment service the conference favored the establishment of a central examination board composed of representatives of the workers, employers and the government, and that this board issue examination cards indicating the health of the workers, and classify them according to physical fitness.

The policies board stated, is not intended to "prevent employers from maintaining their own system, but to provide standards and follow-up methods for the purpose of conserving the health of their workers."

SANTA FE SHOP MEN UNITE.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 7.—The convention of shop men employed by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad, to organize a system federation and district lodges, marks a marked policy in the railroad, starting with Director General of Railroads McAdoo's general order No. 8, last February, that:

"No discrimination will be made in the employment, compensation or conditions of employment of employes because of membership or non-membership in labor organizations."

Before government control of railroads, the Santa Fe was bitter in its opposition to organized labor. Several years ago, and before railroad men's President Ripley—regarding government ownership of railroads. He was one of the railroad officials to acknowledge that this was inevitable. He has failed, however, to acknowledge that the organization of trade unionism is inevitable. Now he is helpless as he sees the Santa Fe shop men join the movement they notifies shop men they have the right to organize their fellows, and that they will be protected if they take such action. .

U. S. INSURANCE GROWS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—More than $20,000,000,000 of government insurance has been written to protect America's fighting forces and their families. Approximately 3,400,000 insurance applications have been received by the bureau of war risk insurance up to September 1. A rush of business in the last fortnight has eclipsed the $2 billion-dollar check record, and the total for August will probably exceed $5,000,000 in new applications. Unofficial estimates indicate that the army is more than 70 per cent insured. The government invariably take out $10,000 insurance, which is the maximum.

In addition to the world's greatest insurance organization in the world, the war risk bureau has charge of soldiers' and sailors' family allotments and government allowances, paying the family compensation for death and disability. To date checks amounting to $5,500,000 have been sent out by air and checks are now being mailed at the rate of $1,000,000 a month.

DEALERS TALK STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 7.—Members of the Federation of Delicatessen Dealers and Caterers are talking strike against wholesalers, who are charged with demanding such prices that these small business men can't make a living.

At a meeting of the delicatessen men it was stated that the rising of the excessive prices charged by the wholesale provision dealers that a strike be called by all delicatessen dealers upon notice by the committee of the federation after conference with the federal board."

INDUSTRIES TO UNITE.

New York Sept. 7.—Plans for the organization of the National Federation of manufacturers' councils to meet war-time and after-the-war emergencies, have been announced by Warren C. King, president of the Manufacturers' Council of New Jersey. It was stated that the organization will be effected on the plan of the American Federation of Labor, embracing the national and local organizations in all manufacturing communities which will form state councils. These, in turn, will name six representatives for the national body.

CHAUFFEURS LOCKED OUT.

San Antonio, Tex., Sept. 7.—The Merchants' Transfer company has locked out all organized chauffeurs because these employes refused to sign individual contracts with provided for 12 hours. Withdrawal from the union is also demanded.

The attention of the company has been called to the views of the national war labor board on the question of individual contracts.

GLOVE WORKERS GAIN.

Seattle, Sept. 7.—The Frank B. Van Decar Glove company has signed an agreement with the Glove Workers union.

FOURTH LIBERTY LOAN

Washington, Sept. 7.—The campaign for the fourth liberty loan began September 28 and closes October 19. While the amount has not been announced it is generally believed that it will be slightly more than any of the previous issues.

NECESSARY WORKERS CAN GAIN EXEMPTION

Washington, Sept. 7.—Provost Marshal General Crowder calls attention to that section of the new draft law which liberalizes deferred classification and permits district boards to include in such classification those men whose work is necessary to the government in its present emergency.

The provost marshal general says:

"Bankers and persons engaged in industries, including agriculture, not heretofore regarded by district boards as warranting deferred classification on the ground of necessary industries, may now claim deferred classification on the ground that the work is necessary to the nation in the present emergency.

"An amount in the new manpower legislation recently passed, changed the provision: 'Persons engaged in industries, including agriculture,' so as to make it read: 'Persons engaged in industries, occupations or employments, including agriculture, found to be necessary to the maintenance of the national interest or to the effective operation of the military forces or the maintenance of national health, safety or interest.'

"The effect of this is to enable necessary persons in industries, occupations or employments to make claims that they are engaged in occupations or employments found by the district board necessary to the maintenance of the military establishment or to the maintenance of the national health, safety or interest of the nation during the war.

"Also, in other words, has been removed the danger of a too narrow construction of the word 'industries' as heretofore applied by boards. In the past have construed as excluding bankers, those engaged in commerce, in the professions and in other occupations. Under the amendment, if any district board shall find in any case that certain men holding important positions in the Red Cross and kindred activities are not regarded as engaged in health work, are engaged in occupations necessary to the maintenance of the military establishment or to the maintenance of the national interest, safety or health, they are entitled to deferred classification.

"In making claims of the kind, the persons engaged in the work of those parts of the questionnaire relating to claims for deferred classification on the ground of being engaged in industries, including agriculture."

KAISER BLOCKED IN EAST.

Boston, Sept. 7.—The kaiser is blocked in his dream of world empire by far east, declared Lieutenant Colonel Milne of the British army, in an interview with the Boston Transcript.

The Britisher, who has been in India for 19 years, said:

"When our army captured Bagdad, Germany lost the war. While we hold Bagdad the kaiser's road to the east is closed. And it was to obtain such a road that Turkey was dragged into the war. That is why she stopped everything else a year ago and crushed Russia.

"So you see what it would mean for us all, for America as well as Europe, if she won her road? Why, it holds out hope for the early liberation of hereditary warlords. And it would mean the liberation of millions more. She could rule the world without using a German soldier, except for the kaiser. That is the last her chance to break through, and with it the war."

GETS TREBLE DAMAGES.

Madison Wis., Sept. 7.—The Wisconsin industrial commission has awarded Peter Heruben, of Superior, $14,676.72 damages against a restaurant keeper for injuries received by a sausage grinding machine. The boy was but 14 years of age at the time of the accident and the employer failed to secure a child labor permit. The commission has trebled the damages under a law effective last year, and this is treated as "compensation for death and disability. To date checks amounting to $5,500,000 have been sent out by air and checks are now being mailed at the rate of $1,000,000 a month.

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LABOR BOARD'S AWARD REJECTED BY BOSSES

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Smith & Wesson Arms company of Springfield, Mass., is in favor of this government's war against autocracy, but it opposes Uncle Sam's efforts to extend democracy at home.

The company has refused to accept the award of the national war labor board, which ordered it to recognize collective bargaining, abandon its system of espionage, reinstate ten anc reinstate victimized trade unionists. The company has notified the war department that it can take over its plant. Under the law the president has the commandeer this or any other plant, regardless of the company's wishes.

The Smith & Wesson has been conducting a successful organizing campaign among the 1,200 men and women employes of Smith & Wesson. Prior to this these employes were compelled to buy their own tools, oil, waste, and even ice.

To more effectively oppose trade unionism the company has had individual contracts on employes, who were discharged as fast as it was found that they had affiliated with organized labor. On this question the national war labor board says:

"The practice of the company in time past to take restrictive personal contracts from its employes is made, is contrary to the principles of the national war labor board, and the board is of the opinion that such practice should be discontinued during the period of the war."

To enforce this decision, and to assure workers of their right to organize, the board has called in representatives to see that its award was complied with.

The war has no room for these patriotic gentlemen, who shriek against the kaiser's autocracy.

UNCLE SAM HAS LONG ARMS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—If any person within the new draft ages imagines he can evade registration, the war department's bureau of investigation has information to show that Uncle Sam has long arms and that escape is impossible.

Under the law every police official, clear down to the constable, is commanded to aid every federal agency in enforcing this statute. Added to these are numerous secret service men and organizations maintaining to ferret out draft evaders. Among the larger of these are the American Protective league and the secret service branch of the council of national defense. There hardly a community that has not some organization, many of them secret, which has been formed to aid by on the alert for information that will aid the government in rounding up slackers.

The department of justice has on file the names of thousands who fled to Mexico before June 3, 1917, to escape registration. Against each one of these a record has been made, prepared, so that prosecution may be immediately started if they return, even after the war. Through the activities of this government keep a close watch on these men, a majority of whom left behind wealthy families, who keep them supplied with money.

The department has also the names of these men, so it has the names of those who fled to Canada to escape registration. Under the British-American reciprocal draft treaty slackers will be required to again face conscription into the Canadian army or return to the United States to face imprisonment and ultimate induction into the service.

MINERS GIVE THEIR LIVES.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Miners are risking their lives to win this war, just as the soldiers are doing at the front, says the federal bureau of mines, in a report on the loyalty of America's vital diggers.

"In the year 1917, the last for which complete figures are at hand, miners gave up their lives while digging coal to win the war. Unquestionably the casualty records do not tabulate the casualties of the mines as it does of the soldiers. But when it is considered that the amount and every dollar's worth of coal mined is shown, they would indicate that the mining, perhaps, is hazardous as war. And the miner goes about his work with the same enthusiasm and the same spirit of patriotism that the lover there,' and is surely doing his part toward winning the war." says the bureau.

"The lone miner in his working place, tearing the coal from its rocky places, the gangs of miners in many more guns, more ships, more munitions, and the consequent saving of the sea."

NO PEACE BY CONFAB.

Washington, Sept. 7.—In the draft proclamation President Wilson made this declaration:

"We seek no purpose a decisive victory of arms and deliberately to execute the larger part of the military man power of the nation to the accomplishment of that purpose."

In calling upon the man power of the country, the president said this was not a government "of a century and a quarter ago," he said, "it was deliberately ordained by the people of the United States for the safety and defense of the nation that the duty of military service should rest upon all citizens who fall within the ages of 18 and 45. We now accept and discharge the obligation which they established, an obligation expressed in our national statutes from that time until now."

EMPLOYER HELD LIABLE.

Harrisburg, Pa., Sept. 7.—The workman's compensation board has ruled that an employe is liable for an employer on the premises of a third person is "entitled to compensation. The case arose when a girl employed by a New York firm to demonstrate certain goods in a department store. The girl tripped over a torn rug in the store and for several months has been unable to work.

A referee denied compensation, but the board ruled otherwise.

STOGIE STRIKE ENDS.

Wheeling, W. Va., Sept. 7.—A strike of stogie makers, employed at the Pollack factories, has been settled on the workers' terms. Under the employer's compromise offer with the understanding that the entire shop in the future be under the national war labor board. This firm, together with the Marsh plant, refused a week ago, to grant the $2 per 1,000 for stogie makers and 1 cent a pound to the strippers.

U. S. CALLS UNION GIRL.

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Miss Elisabeth Christman, for six years general secretary-treasurer of the International Glove Workers' union, has been appointed chief of women in charge of the industrial war labor board. She will assist women workers to present their grievances to the board.

COOPERS ORGANIZING.

Chicago, Sept. 7.—Low wages and long hours have awakened the coopers employed in the stockyards to the necessity of organization and it is announced that a new local will be formed and affiliated with the Teamsters' union.

BOYS TO BE EDUCATED, AT NATION'S EXPENSE

Washington, Sept. 7.—The government has arranged with more than 200 colleges to continue the education of boys before they are called to the army. Military training, under an army officer, will be a part of the educational system of these colleges. Any boys must be 18 years and over and will be considered as soldiers on active duty. They will be under military discipline, receive the pay of privates, and their tuition, clothing and sustenance will be provided by the government.

All boys who are sufficiently educated to pass the entrance examination of any of these colleges may become members of the students' army training corps.

Where boys have only received a common school education they will be assigned to depot brigades of cantonments. Both the college and the vocational detachments will be watched for possible officer material.

SAFETY FIRST AND BIBLE.

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—Will J. French, of the Typographical union, quotes the Bible to support the "safety first" movement. Mr. French, of California industrial accident commission, of which he is a member.

In a recent address on medical men, he said:

"The earliest reference to 'safety first' I have been able to find is in chapter 22, verse 8, of Deuteronomy, which is the book of Moses and reads these words appear: 'When thou buildest a new house ,then shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house, if any man falls from thence.'

"The foundation of the English common law is taken from the five books of Moses, from Genesis to Deuteronomy, and it is upon this statute that represents the highest ideals of safety precaution. The first time I used emery wheels in those days, I think we would be able to read a verse following the one quoted above like this: 'When thou grindest tools on the emery wheel, thou shalt use a hood and goggles, lest the flying particles of steel enter thine eyes, therefore over thine eyes, that thou bring not blindness upon thine house because of dust entering the windows of thy soul.'

URGE CONTROL OF PACKERS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The farmers' national committee on packers and national industries has asked President Wilson to take over the various packing plants, in line with recommendations made in the recent report of the federal trade commission.

"It is our opinion," the farmers say, "that the recommendations made by the commission are entirely wise, just and timely, and that if enacted into law so as to be permanent in effect they would go a long way toward remedying the evils and monopolistic tendencies, open up a field of fair competition, and relieve the farmer of the burden of muddle, confusion and wasted effort.

Throughout the harvest care was taken to handle the cutting without interfering with the usual activities of farmers in other years. It is stated that the result was a better class of workers than heretofore.

The employment service says that the assistance rendered in the harvest of the wheat was harvested without calling on industrial sections for aid is incalculable.

SHOP MEN FEDERATE.

Omaha, Neb., Sept. 7.—Shop men employed on the Union Pacific, Oregon & Quincy railroad have perfected a system federation and affiliated with the A. F. of L. railway employes' department. The new movement has a membership of 6,000 and it believed will include every eligible worker within a short time. These employes are eligible to membership in the federation by order of Director General of Railroads McAdoo, issued last February, that no discrimination shall be made in the employment, retention or conditions of employment of employes because of membership or nonmembership in labor organizations."

Easton, Pa., Sept. 7.—Shop men employed by the Lehigh Valley railroad have perfected a system federation and affiliated with the A. F. of L. railway employes' department.

MOONEY WILL APPEAL.

San Francisco, Sept. 7.—Attorneys for Thomas J. Mooney have announced that an appeal to the United States supreme court. The appeal will be based on the validity of the federal constitution which establishes the rights of citizens.

The California supreme court has twice refused to order a new trial on the ground that in criminal cases must be referred to it by the governor before it to consider matter not contained in the record of the case. As irregularities in the conviction, of Mooney were discovered after the trial was over, the governor declines to order a new trial because the charges of irregularity are not in the record.

U. S. TO AID INDUSTRY.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Bernard M. Baruch, chairman of the war industries board, has suggested to the federal reserve board that it work out some plan under which financial aid might be extended to industries found to be essential to the war.

His purpose is to assist industries which are "wholesomely" established to get maximum production from industries necessary to winning the war, and prevent failure of these industries and to prevent their wrecking.

OBJECT TO GRADING.

Toronto, Canada, Sept. 7.—Organized stationary engineers are objecting to legislation which would grade the engineers' licenses, without grading the plants in which these workers are employed. The engineers show that this scheme offers no protection to the practical man who may happen to be short on knowledge that a theoretical man may have. Plans are under consideration for organizing competent engineers into one union.

Conscription of Labor Is Defeated

Washington, Sept. 7.—The conscription-of-labor amendment to the new draft law, proposed by Senator Thomas of Colorado, has been rejected by congress, following a fight against this measure by organized labor.

The amendment would place in the army any striker who was unemployed five days. This would leave the workers powerless against every conscienceless employer.

The house rejected the amendment by a two-to-one vote. In the senate Mr. Cummins of Iowa succeeded in modifying the scheme by exempting the adoption of an amendment which would permit strikers to retain their draft classification when they returned to work and agreed to abide by the decision of the national war labor board.

Because of these differences between the two branches of congress the matter was referred to conferees. The house conferees refused to consider the senate plan in any form and the senate conferees accepted this position rather than delay the passage of the bill.

Labor's victory is more emphatic when it is recalled that one well-known congressman secured a trade union official that large employing interests had "planted" in Washington here for a month to secure a list of this kind.

The Thomas amendment is unnecessary and its rejection will have a wholesome effect on the workers of our country. Labor as a whole heartedly engaged in this war for democracy and said it. As secretary Frank Morrison, who attended the amendment before a congressional committee:

"It will be noticed," said the trade unionist, "that Senator Thomas suggested no remedy for the profiteering employers. They may exploit without stint, and if their employes complain they would be treated in the army, even though the manufacturing of munitions is lessened. When his attention was called to this one-sided position he replied that he had no remedy for workers would adjust matters. In other words he would increase the turnover of labor—the constant shifting of employes—which the president of labor and other governmental agencies are attempting to minimize. In a recent speech Secretary of Labor Wilson said that the individualistic strike—the turnover of labor—is causing a greater loss to the country than all the strikes and lockouts combined.

"Organized labor knows the need for continuous high speed production in these times, and a bargain behind every machine is the best solution where contrary conditions may exist.

"Senator McCumber of North Dakota, a defender of the Thomas conscription idea, made this acknowledgement in debate, which is significant:

"The bad system that we have adopted has been most responsible for what slacking we have in all our productive industries today. This accursed proposition of 'cost plus' is at the bottom of all of the evil in the industrial world from which we are suffering that today. It is made a question of strikes as it is the slacking that has been encouraged by every foreman, whose salary will be prolonged by reason of the delay in the work, by every contractor whose profits will be enlarged just to the extent that delays and slacking is encouraged.'

"Here we have a senator," continued the trade unionist, "who wants labor conscripted and at the same time says the greed of employers is the root of all evil in the industrial world.'

"Senator McCumber's well-known compromising nature assured a trade union official that large employing interests had been successful in securing the defeat of the conscription-of-labor advocates would make is that the soldier is not permitted to strike, so that he would be denied the rights whose profits will be enlarged just to the extent that delays and slacking is encouraged.

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NO CHINESE NEEDED TO SAVE WHEAT CROP

Washington, Sept. 7.—The United States employment service reports that workers within the western wheat states provided all the labor used in gathering the wheat harvest this summer.

The announcement shatters the doleful predictions of advocates of Chinese immigration, who talked of importing a million Orientals to save the wheat from certain destruction.

Of the 1,000,000 men, more than 19,000, or more than one-half of the total number of emergency workers, were placed in the farms and directed by the employment service.

That the harvest should have been accomplished without a hitch in itself is proof what organization and local knowledge can accomplish. The work between county agricultural agents and government agencies is largely responsible for the excellent results.

Starting from Oklahoma ,early in June, the government labor officers marshaled their army of harvesters. By July 15 the wheat was ripened. All along the line every effort was made to guard the interests of the farmers and provide for the transient surpluses of men in one locality while a shortage existed elsewhere, and to push the whole campaign free of muddle, confusion and wasted effort.

Throughout the harvest care was taken to handle the cutting without interfering with the usual activities of farmers in other years. It is stated that the result was a better class of workers than heretofore.

The employment service says that the assistance rendered in the harvest of the wheat was harvested without calling on industrial sections for aid is incalculable.

LONDON "COPS" STRIKE.

London, England, Sept. 7.—The government has accepted the demands of the London policemen, who have secured wage increases and the reinstatement of a policeman who was discharged because of his activities in the organization of the policemen's union.

The government has recognized the National Union of Police and Prison Officers as a "federation," but not as a trade union.

New York, Sept. 7.—The New York World makes this editorial comment on the recent strike of London policemen:

"There appears to be but one explanation for the excuse for the yielding attitude of the British government, and that is the more cowardly fear that metropolitan police commissioner had put himself grievously in the wrong in the matter of the more reasonable of the men and in trying to prevent them from giving united weight to these demands. It is a discovery that might far better have been made before the cause for the strike and the fact of mischief has been done. The lesson to other municipalities is obvious."

FINE LABOR CARTOON.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The Federal Employee, official magazine of the National Federation of Federal Employees, has a fine two-color labor cartoon on the first page of its current issue.

Uncle Sam is depicted as holding an unfolded scroll, on which is inscribed these words of the president: "Labor must be given a voice." A long-hour amendment to an appropriation bill, last July:

"Uncle Sam is held from any quarter that the employes of the government have a right to ask and labor. On the contrary I have learned that they have cheerfully done the additional work that was not needed the compulsion of law."

LOANS TO FARMERS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The treasury department announces that the federal farm loan corporation will make loans direct to live stock growers in certain states without the intervention of banks.

Financial assistance has been secured through cooperative associations.

TO CHECK RENT PROFITERS.

Boston, Sept. 7.—Rent profiters may have their property seized by the government, under legislation now pending in congress. Under war legislation the governor has power to seize a variety of property, and it is intended to investigate charges of rent profiteering.

BREWERY WORKERS GAIN.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Sept. 7.—Employes of breweries in this locality have received wage increases of $3 per week. Common laborers now receive $21 per week and skilled workers are now be paid $27. Drivers $18.75 and

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE LABOR LAWS

Washington, Sept. 7.—The war labor policies board has called a conference on the enforcement of industrial standards for September 16 and October 1 in Washington. The governor of each state is asked to send a representative.

The invitation says, in part:

"The war labor policies board appointed by the president to act in behalf of the federal government, has prepared various contract clauses which will be inserted in contracts for future contracts given out by government departments will include these clauses. Also, there are certain requirements, such as the restriction of child labor, which are imposed by the federal government and that the observance of all state factory laws.

"It is planned to designate the proper officials in each state to consult with and assist the federal authorities in their efforts to secure the enforcing these regulations and who will, to some extent, maintain inspection over the work of their subordinates.

"For this purpose the war labor policies board desires your hearty cooperation in carrying out this policy, and hopes that you will direct the proper officials to assist the federal authorities.

"The federal government, in its activities in connection with war regulations, is brought into increasing contact with state agencies. A more definite understanding of their common purposes in the enforcement of industrial standards is therefore essential."

DOLLAR POWER SHRINKS.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Figures published by the department of labor show that the purchasing power of $1 in July, 1918, as compared with July, 1913, five years previous, was 49 cent in New York, 49 cents in Lington and Baltimore, 57 cents in Philadelphia, 53 cent in Boston, 51 cent and Chicago, and 43 cents in San Francisco.

During this in another way, the increase in the cost of food during the five-year period was 85 per cent in Washington, 84 per cent in Baltimore, 77 per cent in Philadelphia, 81 per cent in New York, 69 per cent in Chicago and 58 per cent in San Francisco.

In the one-year period from July, 1917, to July, 1918, food advanced 22 per cent in San Francisco, 21 per cent in Boston and Philadelphia, 20 per cent in Baltimore, 17 per cent in New York and 11 per cent in Chicago.

OPPOSING EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

St. Paul, Minn. Sept. 7.—Manager McGavery of the South St. Paul Stock Yards company is making a fight against the eight-hour day awarded stock yard employes last July by the federal judge Landis, acting as arbitrator in Chicago.

Organized labor have made repeated demands on the manager to abide by this award, and they were finally compelled to suspend work. The manager then demanded a secret ballot be taken on the question, believing that labor would prevail. He was defeated, despite two score policemen, watchers and thugs and straw loosen voting with him.

MUCH STEEL NEEDED.

New York, Sept. 7.—At a meeting of the iron and steel institute it was said that the government has given notice that it is imperative to meet in full the demands of the army and navy for steel. These demands of the last six months have increased so greatly that the tons asked are rapidly approaching the 25,000,000 mark.

Before full production is said to now have a capacity of 37,000,000 tons or less. The railroads will consume the largest amount of steel. Rebuilding comes next, with the war department a program third and the navy fourth.

PIECE WORK PROTESTED.

Washington, Sept. 7.—The United States employment service has compiled a list of 3,6?5 names of shop employes of the Pennsylvania railroad who have protested to Director General of Railroads McAdoo against piece work. The list is to be placed on file in the principal shops at Altoona, Pa., are yet to be heard from.

STREET CAR STRIKE ENDS.

Dubuque, Iowa, Sept. 7.—A two weeks' strike of street car employes has ended in a victory for the union. Increases of 3 cents per hour are granted.